

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: Amador County Watershed Stewardship Project

The Amador County Watershed Stewardship Project is a new initiative of the Amador Community Foundation. Through this Project, the Foundation is committed to bringing together all relevant public and private stakeholders to enhance public awareness about watershed management efforts, increase public participation in the process of watershed assessment, planning and restoration and to create incentives for public and private landowners to engage in land stewardship and pollution prevention on their lands.

The first phase of this Project is the Jackson Creek Watershed Management and Conservation Program (hereinafter "Program"). The Jackson Creek Watershed is a sub-watershed of the Mokelumne River watershed in Amador County. The upper watershed includes the sub-basins of the North Fork Jackson Creek, Middle Fork Jackson Creek, and South Fork Jackson Creek upstream of their confluences near the center of the City of Jackson. The Program was initiated in 2007 to develop a common understanding of the general opportunities, constraints, and strategies for natural resource protection, water conservation and integrated land and water management in the upper portions of the Jackson Creek Watershed. The Program will also assist landowners and cooperating resource agencies in prioritizing stewardship actions and projects in the watershed and marketing the Plan's vision to outside agencies and prospective partners.

This proposal requests \$122,830 in matching funds from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to help complete a watershed assessment and project implementation plan that will: (1) create a unified and accepted understanding of current watershed conditions, trends, and linkages by integrating physical, biological, archeological, economic and social elements; (2) develop a water supply and management plan for the watershed; (3) educate local stakeholders and inform local and regional land-use planning; (4) strategically focus conservation efforts; and (5) maximize benefits and minimize impacts from infrastructure projects.

In addition to the overall watershed assessment and plan, this proposal requests \$50,950 in matching funds to complete an important site-specific management plan for arguably the most important aquatic resource in the watershed, the New York Ranch Reservoir. The Reservoir and adjacent lands support high quality wetlands and riparian woodlands and abundant wildlife. In cooperation with the Amador Water Agency, the California Dept. of Fish and Game and the Foothill Conservancy, this proposal seeks additional funding for stakeholder outreach, synthesis of the on-going hydrologic data collection efforts, and development of a draft management and implementation plan for the Reservoir.